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FOREIGN NEWS ON GOATS AND MOHAIR

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WORLD MOHAIR SITUATION

The world mohair situation as it affects United States producers has been summed up in the following words from the Agricultural Outlook for 1929 published this month by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

> "The outlook for mohair producers is fairly good, but not quite so good as it was at this time last year. Domestic production appears to be increasing more rapidly than consumption; foreign consumption in 1928 was less than in 1927. The situation, however, is still much better than at the beginning of 1927 and mohair prices may be maintained near the level realized for the 1928 fall clip. As stated last year, producers should be careful not to expand production more rapidly than domestic demand requires. One million more goats, producing 4.4 pounds of mohair per head, in 1928 probably would have supplied the domestic market and reduced prices.
>
> During the past two years prices have been encouraging to producers. The price of good combing domestic mohair at Boston averaged 69 cents in 1926, 72 in 1927, and 86 in 1928. As indicated in the last Outlook Report, the situation at the beginning of 1928 was very favorable. High prices were paid for the spring clip. Good combing domestic mohair reached 91 cents per pound in May and remained at this level until September, when the price level dropped to 82 cents, about the same as at thebeginning of the season. Supply and demand prospects for 1929 suggest that prices may be maintained near the present level through the season."

Mohair production has been increasing rapidly in the United States and probably reached in the neighborhood of 14,500,000 or 15,000,000 pounds in 1928 although official estimates are not yet available. Favorable prices during 1928 and fairly steady demand during that year will probably result in a still further increase in 1929 unless there is a heavy mortality of goats for some unforeseen reason.

The trend of mohair production has been downward in the Union of South Africa, and upward in Turkey. In the five years 1923-1927 the production in South Africa declined from nearly 16,000,000 pounds to 11,000,000 pounds, while the production in Turkey increased from about 6,000,000 to nearly 11,000,000 pounds. It seems possible that the low point in production has been reached in the Union of South Africa.

Foreign supplies of mohair for 1929 will probably be about the same or less than in 1928 when they were lower than in 1927. There have been losses of goats in both Turkey and the Union of South Africa due to adverse weather conditions during the latter part of 1927 and the first few months of 1928. Stocks carried over from 1928 are reported as not very large. Available stocks at Constantinople at the end of November were estimated at approximately 4,599,000 pounds and while not large were about twice as large as at the same date of 1927, according to Commercial Attache J. H. Gillespie, December 10, 1928. In the Union of South Africa stocks were reported as much reduced and composed mostly of inferior hair, according to the Standard Bank of South Africa, for December. Exports of the 1928 clip from the Union of South Africa, i.e. from July 1928 to June 30, 1929, are officially forecast at approximately 8,250,000 pounds, including 2,500,000 from Basuto land, compared with actual exports of 8,788,409 pounds for the year ended June 30, 1928, when production was estimated at about 11,000,000 pounds.

Angora goats in the Union of South Africa on June 30, 1928 were officially estimated at 1,318,000 a decrease of 12 per cent compared with 1927 and a decrease of almost 40 per cent compared with the average for the preceding five years. The reduction in goats in 1928 was due to the prolonged drought followed by floods in April. Although the floods tended to reduce the 1928 clip to some extent on account of losses of goats, prospects for future clips were considerably brightened by the definite breaking of the drought in the angora goat districts. While the number of breeding ewes was smaller than for some time, the percentage of kids reared was expected to be higher than it had been as the weather was very favorable at the kidding season. It is not expected that the improved conditions will show in the summer clip, i.e., that shorn in December, January, February 1928-29 which comes on the market in May 1929 and constitutes about a third of the total mohair clip of the Union, but there will probably be an increase in kid hair. The improved conditions are expected to be reflected in a larger supply of summer firsts in 1930. Generally speaking the outlook in the Union is toward building up the flocks of the country because tremendously renewed interest has been taken in mohair as a result of high prices available for it, states the Port Elizabeth correspondent of the "Wool Record and Textile World".

In Turkey the 1928 clip was estimated at 10,000,000 pounds compared with 10,950,000 in 1927. It is indicated that the 1929 clip will also be below the 1927 total, according to Commercial Attache J. H. Gillespie, November 19, 1928. The number of angora goats in that country increased steadily from 1923 to 1927 but was considerably reduced in 1928 by the losses of goats occasioned by the long drought in the summer and autumn of 1927 followed by a severe winter.

Consumption of mohair in the United States in 1928 continued at a fairly steady rate although below the level of 1927. While practically the whole of the domestic clip, unofficially estimated as greater than the 13,500,000 pounds produced in 1927, was consumed leaving a very light carryover, it is indicated that consumption of foreign mohair in this country was considerably reduced. Total withdrawals of foreign mohair from bond at Boston during 1928 amounted to 1,644,000 pounds including the exports which amounted to 275,000 pounds. This amount is substantially smaller than the withdrawals from bond at Boston during the second half of 1927 when they totaled 1,915,000 pounds. Withdrawals from bond during the second half of 1928 amounted to only 751,000 pounds which indicates a greatly reduced volume of consumption of foreign mohair by domestic manufacturers.

General imports of mohair into the United States during the year 1928 estimated at 3,420,000 pounds, while 920,000 pounds greater than in 1927, were over 7,000,000 pounds below 1926 and about 1 per cent below the average for the years 1923-1925. Stocks at all bonded custom warehouses of the United States on December 31, 1928 were estimated at 3,820,000 pounds compared with 4,088,000 in 1927. Imports for consumption into the United States for the first 6 months of 1928, the latest figures available, were only 1,660,000 compared with 3,234,000 for the same period of 1927.

Consumption of mohair in foreign countries also appeared to be less in 1928 than in 1927. The amount retained for consumption in the United Kingdom was approximately 14,000,000 pounds compared with 20,000,000 in 1927, an average of 20,000,000 pounds for the years 1921-1925 and 29,000,000 for the years 1909-1913. In 1926 when there was a slump in the industry in Great Britain only 6,500,000 pounds were retained for consumption. Total imports into the United Kingdom in 1928 were 14,500,000 pounds, 640,000 pounds of which were reexported against total imports in 1927 of 20,400,000 pounds with reexports of only 240,000 pounds. Exports of mohair yarn in 1928 amounted to 8,878,000 pounds, a slight decrease compared with the 9,007,000 pounds exported in 1927.

Average prices of mohair at Boston in 1928 reached hgih levels. The average for the year for good combing domestic in 1928 was 86 cents per pound against 72 in 1927, 69 in 1926, and 56 for the 10 preceding years. Prices of good combing domestic which rose to 91 cents per pound last spring and early summer fell to 82 cents in December compared with 78 in December 1927 and 71 in December 1926. The 1928 price for good combing domestic averaged 35 cents above that of Turkey fair average. The average price of Turkey fair average at Boston for the year 1928 was 51 cents compared with 44 in 1927 and 45 in 1926.

ANGORA GOATS AND MOHAIR: Production in the United States, the Union of South Africa, and Turkey, 1920-1928

Year	Number of Angora goats			Mohair production		
	United States 1/	Union of South Africa	Turkey	United States	Union of South Africa	Turkey
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1920	2,346	2,240	---	8,474	9,900	---
1921	2,506	2,285	---	9,362	16,212	---
1922	2,231	2,272	---	8,488	19,560	6,337
1923	2,280	2,285	2,024	9,067	15,630	6,360
1924	2,518	2,140	2,252	9,857	14,343	5,300
1925	2,374	2,151	2,560	10,432	13,038	6,300
1926	2,899	1,831	2,741	11,799	12,007	7,040
1927	3,159	1,499	3,162	13,470	11,000	10,950
1928		1,318				10,000

Estimates of mohair production for the United States furnished by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. Union of South African estimates compiled by Hannam and Co. of Port Elizabeth. Estimates for Turkey unofficial or commercial estimates. Estimates of Angora goats are official. Turkey 1923-27, Commercial Attache Julian M. Gillespie, May 21, 1928, quoting official figures.

1/ Number of goats clipped.

MOHAIR (HAIR OF THE ANGORA): United States imports, 1923-1928

Year ended December 31	General imports	Imports for consumption	Remaining in bonded customs warehouses December 31
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1923	4,603,526	3,888,833	1/
1924	3,990,089	3,160,637	3,553,457
1925	1,768,353	1,783,994	3,396,958
1926	10,666,493	8,886,951	10,328,117
1927	2,498,804	4,712,087	4,088,396
1928	3,420,329	2/	3,820,296

Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States and Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States, December issues, 1923-1928.

1/ Not available. (Due to much confusion in the figures on account of the change in the tariff, these figures were never published and are not available in the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce).

2/ Imports for consumption. January-June were 1,660,037 pounds in 1928 against 3,234,476 in 1927. No later figures available.

UNITED STATES: Mohair imports by countries, calendar years, 1923-1928

Countries of origin	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
British South Africa	1,142	803	1,004	3,886	1,047	669
Turkey	1,649	913	268	3,890	1,274	2,104
England (reexports)	1,705	2,045	487	2,874	80	509
China	64	47	9	5	92	--
Australia	--	148	--	--	--	--
Mexico	14	25	--	6	--	--
Canada	9	9	1/	2	6	--
Others	21	9	--	3	--	138
Total	4,604	3,990	1,768	10,666	2,499	3,420

Compiled from official sources.
1/ Less than 500 pounds.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports, reexports and amount retained for consumption of mohair and exports of mohair yarn (including alpaca and cashmere), average 1909-1913, 1921-1925, calendar years 1923-1928

Year	Mohair			Mohair yarn including alpaca and cashmere
	Total imports	Reexports	Amount retained for consumption	Exports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Average				
1909-1913	30,168	982	29,186	16,378
1921-1925	21,883	2,045	19,838	7,371
1923	22,550	1,794	20,756	9,538
1924	20,883	2,539	18,344	8,380
1925	13,413	700	12,713	8,059
1926	11,069	4,543	6,526	6,336
1927	20,396	238	20,159	9,007
1928	14,531	640	13,891	8,878

Accounts of Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom.

UNITED KINGDOM: Mohair imports by countries of origin, calendar years 1913, 1923-1928

Countries of origin	1913	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
British South Africa	18,523	13,823	14,044	10,730	5,804	10,335	6,977
Turkey	10,402	7,318	5,612	2,119	4,961	8,365	7,018
United States	---	1,194	337	75	---	---	---
Others	391	215	890	489	304	1,696	536
Total	29,316	22,550	20,883	13,413	11,069	20,369	14,531

Compiled from official sources.

UNITED KINGDOM: Destination of reexports of mohair, calendar years 1913, 1923-1928

Country	1913	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Germany	---	56	228	94	18	20	
United States	1,490	1,651	2,209	529	4,377	155	
Other foreign countries	5	86	100	77	148	63	
British possessions	---	1	2	---	---	---	
Total	1,495	1,794	2,539	700	4,543	238	640

MOHAIR: Average price per pound, at Boston, annually 1923-1926 and by months, 1926-1928

Year and month	Good combing, domestic	Cape summer firsts a/	Turkey, fair average a/
	Cents	Cents	Cents
1923	72	36	39
1924	74	--	--
1925	75	55	57
1926	69	45	45

	Good combing, domestic			Cape summer firsts a/			Turkey, fair average a/		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
January	72	70	82	55	44		56	45	46
February	72	69	82	53	44		52	44	48
March	70	68	82	50	44		48	44	50
April	62	b/69	88	42	44		41	44	53
May	64	69	91	42	44		41	44	53
June	68	69	91	42	45		41	44	53
July	68	72	91	42	45		41	44	53
August	68	74	91	42	45	c/66	41	44	53
September	68	74	82	42	45		41	44	51
October	72	74	82	44	45		46	44	51
November	71	74	82	44	45		46	44	51
December	71	78	82	44	45		46	45	51
Average for year	69	72	86	45	44		45	44	51

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from the Boston Commercial Bulletin, weekly.

a/ Prices are in bond. b/ Beginning April quoted as "Good original bag, Texas kid". c/ Average two weeks in August.

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